



## Trade Alert 03, Released 27 February 2024

Prepared by Ms Singita Maswanganye

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The purpose of this bimonthly briefing is to gather time sensitive news and present a compilation of trade related public media articles. This is to enable the Departments' trade related functionaries and the ATF to stay up to date with the latest media information affecting the economy and international trade in the agricultural sector. Articles can serve as a source of debate on its implications in Departmental forums. The purpose of the alerts is not to represent the views of the Department, neither to do interpretations or impact analysis. In this compilation the Department does not support any views nor verify the accuracy of articles by the media.

### SAB in R19m move to grow its own limes

South African Breweries (SAB) is investing R19 million to cultivate its own lime orchards as part of a sustainable sourcing initiative. The move aims to reduce the company's reliance on imported limes, ensuring a local and consistent supply for its beverages. SAB plans to establish lime orchards in the Limpopo province, contributing to job creation and economic development in the region. By investing in local lime production, the brewery seeks to enhance its supply chain resilience and promote environmental sustainability. This initiative aligns with SAB's broader commitment to supporting local agriculture and reducing its ecological footprint. The investment in lime cultivation reflects SAB's strategy to secure essential ingredients locally, positively impacting the agricultural sector while strengthening the brewery's supply chain.

For further reading click the link below:

Source: [businesslive.co.za](https://businesslive.co.za). Author: Michelle Gumede (date of publication 25 February 2024). <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/companies/2024-01-25-sab-in-r19m-move-to-grow-its-own-limes/> Accessed (27/02/2024)

## Live export of animals under fire

The National Council for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty for Animals (NSPCA) has called for a complete ban of livestock exports via sea following the discovery of the abhorrent condition in which animals were kept on the Al Kuwait, which docked in Cape Town last week to load feed on its way from Brazil to Iraq. Activists and animal welfare organizations are challenging the practice, highlighting the stress and adverse conditions faced by animals during long journeys. The debate has prompted calls for stricter regulations and increased oversight to ensure the humane treatment of animals in the live export industry. The issue reflects a broader global discussion on the ethics of live animal exports and the need for comprehensive measures to safeguard animal welfare in such trade practices.

For further reading click the link below:

Source: [Farmersweekly.co.za](https://www.farmersweekly.co.za). Author: Glenneis Kriel (date of publication 27 February 2024). <https://www.farmersweekly.co.za/agri-news/south-africa/live-export-of-animals-under-fire/> Accessed (27/02/2024)

## WTO meets with calls for consensus amid geopolitical tensions

The World Trade Organization opened a high-level ministerial meeting in Abu Dhabi on Monday, 26 February 2024 with calls for consensus as geopolitical tensions and the looming US election undermine chances of a major breakthrough. The meeting aims at addressing global trade challenges faced by member countries. Despite the urgency, expectations for a substantial resolution were low, reflecting the complex nature of trade negotiations and diverse interests among nations. This article highlights the challenging environment faced by the WTO in fostering consensus and addressing pressing trade issues.

For further reading click the link below:

Source: France24.com. Author: [AFP](#) (date of publication 25 February 2024). <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20240226-wto-convenes-ministers-in-uae-with-slim-hopes-for-breakthrough> Accessed (26/02/2024)

## How Saudi Arabia exported tomatoes to Europe for the first time

Saudi Arabia has successfully exported tomatoes to Europe for the first time this February, marking a milestone in the country's agricultural industry. The achievement is attributed to the implementation of advanced vertical farming techniques by the Saudi company, King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST). Vertical farming allows for year-round cultivation in controlled environments, overcoming the challenges of the Saudi climate. The project utilized hydroponic systems and energy-efficient LED lighting to create optimal conditions for tomato production. This success not only demonstrates the potential of vertical farming in arid regions but also opens up new opportunities for Saudi Arabia to diversify its agricultural exports. The development aligns with the country's broader goals of enhancing food security, reducing dependency on imports, and contributing to the sustainability of the agricultural sector. The utilization of innovative farming technologies positions Saudi Arabia as a player in the global agricultural market and showcases the potential of controlled-environment agriculture in challenging climates.

For further reading click the link below:

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Source: Verticalfarmdaily.com. Author: Youness Bensaid (date of publication 26 February 2024). <https://www.verticalfarmdaily.com/article/9603150/how-saudi-arabia-exported-tomatoes-to-europe-for-the-first-time/> Accessed (27/02/2024)

## WTO in 'damage control' mode as Abu Dhabi agenda unravels

The upcoming World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting in Abu Dhabi is anticipated to be a critical test for global trade cooperation. The article emphasizes the challenges faced by the WTO in fostering collaboration among member nations, particularly in the context of rising geopolitical tensions and protectionist measures. It underscores the importance of addressing trade issues such as supply chain disruptions and economic inequality. The meeting is seen as an opportunity to assess the resilience of international trade cooperation amid complex geopolitical dynamics. The article suggests that the outcomes of the Abu Dhabi gathering will have significant implications for the future of global trade governance, as nations grapple with divergent interests and geopolitical pressures. It highlights the need for effective diplomatic efforts to navigate these challenges and strengthen international trade cooperation in the face of mounting uncertainties.

For further reading click the link below:

Source: Politico.com. Author: Doug Palmer and Camille Gijs (date of publication 25 February 2024). <https://www.politico.com/news/2024/02/25/world-trade-cooperation-will-be-put-to-the-test-in-abu-dhabi-00143019> Accessed (26/02/2024)

## Info-graphics of South African exports and imports for quarter 3 of 2023

Maps below



# agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department:  
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## SOUTH AFRICA'S EXPORTS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2023 COMPARED TO THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2022

- Indicators: Q3- 2023 Percentage share; Export values- Q3 2023, Growth rate (%) between Q3 2023 and Q3 2022 and the top three product categories exported- Q3 2023.

**Total**  
R52 Bn, **↑16%**

**NAFTA: 9% share; R5 Bn; ↓0.9%**

Fruit & nuts; Beverages; Sugars

**South-America: 0.4% share; R201 Mn; ↓16%**

Prepared fruit, veg & nuts; Beverages; Oilseeds

**Caribbean: 0% share; R20 Mn; ↓44%**

Beverages; Prepared fruit, veg & nuts; Oilseeds

**Central America: 0.4% share; R211 Mn; ↑456%**

Cereals; Prepared fruit, veg & nuts ; Fruit & nuts

**North America: 0% share; R95 Thou; ↑729%**

Beverages; Cereal preparations; Meat

**EU (27): 27% share; R14 Bn; ↑20%**

**Western Europe: 8% share; R4 Bn; ↑7%**

**Eastern Europe: 4% share; R2 Bn; ↓0.1%**

Fruit & nuts; Beverages; Prepared fruit, veg & nuts

**Asia (ME-14): 21% share; R11 Bn;**

**↑29%**

Fruit & nuts; Cereals; Beverages

**Middle East (14): 7% share; R4 Bn;**

**↑16%**

Fruit & nuts; Animal or veg fats and oil; Meat

**Africa (54): 45% share; R23 Bn;**

**↑16%**

Beverages; Cereals, Miscellaneous edible preparations

**Australasia & Oceania: 0.9% share; R445 Mn; ↓11%**

Prepared fruit, veg & nuts; Miscellaneous edible preparations; Fruit & nuts

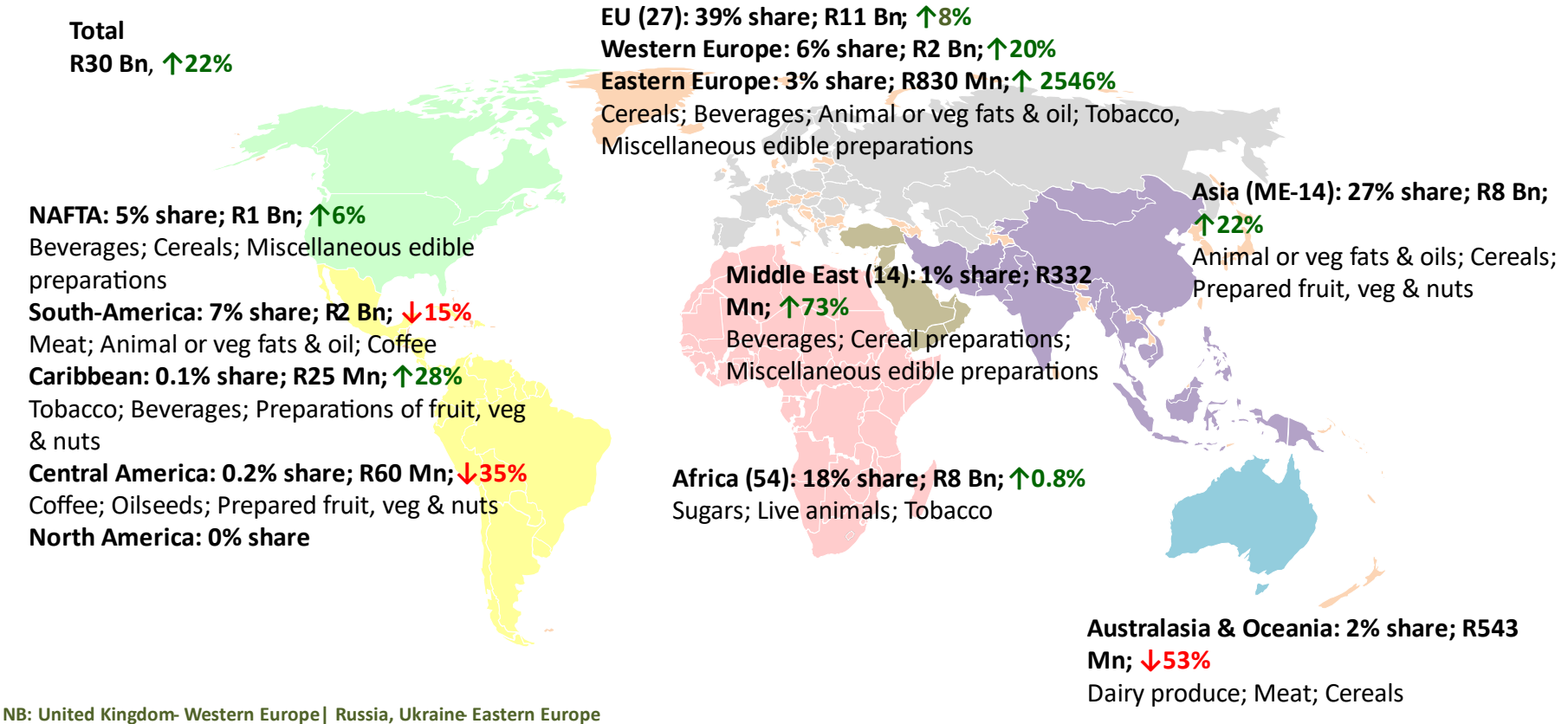
NB: United Kingdom- Western Europe | Russia, Ukraine- Eastern Europe

Source data: Quantec Easydata, 2023 | Prepared by: Samkelisiwe Ngwenya, Agricultural Economist

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### SOUTH AFRICA'S IMPORTS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2023 COMPARED TO THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2022

- Indicators: Q3- 2023 Percentage share; Import values- Q3 2023, Growth rate (%) between Q3 2023 and Q3 2022 and the top three product categories imported Q3 2023.



Source data: Quantec Easydata, 2023 | Prepared by: Samkelisiwe Ngwenya, Agricultural Economist

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